

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 17, 2013

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 42**

**Introduced by Senator Fuller**

***(Principal coauthor: Senator Galgiani)***

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Salas)

**(Coauthors: Senators Berryhill, ~~Galgiani~~, Huff, and Monning)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Grove, Hall, and Patterson)

May 13, 2013

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 42—Relative to Valley Fever Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 42, as amended, Fuller. Valley Fever Awareness Month.

This measure would declare August 2013 as Valley Fever Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Valley Fever (coccidioidomycosis), a progressive,  
2 multisymptom, respiratory disorder, is a debilitating disease; and  
3 WHEREAS, Valley Fever is caused by the inhalation of tiny  
4 airborne fungi that live in the soil but are released into the air by  
5 soil disturbance or wind; and  
6 WHEREAS, Valley Fever attacks the respiratory system, causing  
7 infections that can lead to symptoms that resemble a cold,  
8 influenza, or pneumonia; and  
9 WHEREAS, If left untreated or mistreated, infection can spread  
10 from the lungs into the bloodstream, causing inflammation to the  
11 skin, permanent damage to lung and bone tissue, and swelling of

1 the membrane surrounding the brain, leading to meningitis, which  
2 can be devastating and even fatal; and

3 WHEREAS, Once serious symptoms of Valley Fever appear,  
4 including pneumonia and labored breathing, prompt treatment with  
5 often toxic antifungal drugs must be given, which is especially  
6 disagreeable for patients who require the drugs to be injected  
7 beneath the base of their skulls for meningitis and which can cause  
8 side effects such as nausea, fever, and kidney damage; and

9 WHEREAS, Within California alone, Valley Fever is found in  
10 portions of the Sacramento Valley, all of the San Joaquin Valley,  
11 desert regions, and portions of southern California; and

12 WHEREAS, California does not have an official statewide  
13 method of tracking the rate of Valley Fever infections; and

14 WHEREAS, In the last 10 years, infection rates in California  
15 and Arizona have risen 400 percent, from an estimated 31 cases  
16 for every 100,000 people in 1999 to 157 cases for every 100,000  
17 people in 2011; and

18 WHEREAS, In Kern County, the rate of infection of Valley  
19 Fever more than tripled from 2009, for a total of 2,051 cases in  
20 2010 and 2,734 cases in 2011; and

21 WHEREAS, San Joaquin County Public Health Services  
22 recorded 27 cases of Valley Fever in 2009, 46 cases in 2010, and  
23 123 cases in 2011; and

24 WHEREAS, Valley Fever infection rates rose twelvefold  
25 nationwide from 1995 to 2009, according to the *federal* Centers  
26 for Disease Control and Prevention, and researchers estimate that  
27 the fungus infects more than 150,000 people each year who either  
28 suffer serious ailments without knowing the cause of their illness  
29 or escape detection of the disease; and

30 WHEREAS, Misdiagnosis of Valley Fever is so pervasive that  
31 experts say that some people suffer and even die from Valley Fever  
32 without knowing they ever had the disease; and

33 WHEREAS, Central Valley prison inmates are being infected  
34 by Valley Fever at epidemic rates, contributing significantly to the  
35 state's prison health care costs; and

36 WHEREAS, The rapid spread of Valley Fever at state prisons  
37 in the Central Valley has resulted in multiple prison inmate deaths  
38 and prompted calls to close certain affected prisons, further  
39 exacerbating efforts to comply with federal orders to reduce prison  
40 overcrowding; and

1 WHEREAS, Valley Fever kills between 100 to 200 more  
2 Americans every year than tuberculosis; and

3 WHEREAS, Valley Fever most seriously affects the young, the  
4 elderly, those with lowered immune systems, and those of African  
5 American and Filipino descent; and

6 WHEREAS, Valley Fever is a disease that has been studied for  
7 the past 100 years but still remains impossible to control and  
8 difficult to treat; and

9 WHEREAS, There is, to date, no known cure for Valley Fever,  
10 but researchers are closer than ever to finding a much-needed  
11 vaccine against this devastating disease; and

12 WHEREAS, The research effort to find a vaccine for Valley  
13 Fever and a funding partnership including the State of California  
14 were approved by the Legislature and signed by Governor Wilson  
15 in 1997; now, therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
17 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature does hereby proclaim  
18 August 2013 as Valley Fever Awareness Month; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
20 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.